

Some of the good friends of Will and Ora Russell and of the Russell family:

1. UNCLE SAM FINE

"We are citizens of the United States of America."

Uncle Sam Fine (no relation, born June 28, 1872, died 1959) and his first wife, Lilly Thomas (the Thomas family lived on River Street across from Aunt Nettie's house; Lilly Thomas' sister, Bessie, married one of the Browns of Binghamton, NY) were good friends of William Anderson Russell and Ora Loomis Russell and of the entire Russell family as well. Uncle Sam Fine (who had a bulldog named "Bumps") and Lilly Thomas took Helen and Louise Russell to the Toronto World's Fair (Uncle Sam had a King Touring car with side curtains). In going through customs, Helen and Louise Russell were made to declare to the custom's man--apparently a friend of Uncle Sam's--that they were "citizens of the United States of America." The customs man would not let them pass across the border until they declared the complete name of the country of their birth--the custom's man insisting on the "....of America." Uncle Sam's second wife was Lizzie Wyllie (from Belmont St., the Wyllie's had a grocery store on the corner across from Number 8 school, a school of which Alice Rashleigh was, at one point, principal).

[Told to SRP by HLRP on 11/26/76]